

Tetanus is an illness caused by Clostridium Tetany and is characterized by stiffening and a lack of coordination. The classic symptom is referred to as "lock jaw" (the old name for this disease). If the chin of the victim is tapped sharply, the eyes will roll up. Tetanus most often occurs due to wounds (deep or shallow) that have not been allowed to bleed properly. Fever accompanies this disease and quite often, loud noises will cause the goat to convulse. Vitamin C can act to detoxify the clostridia before this disease reaches critical stages. Tetanus is a very painful disease. Immunizations may stop tetanus from developing, but they will not stop it from occurring if conditions are right for it to develop. It is believed that adult goats build a natural immunity to tetanus - younger goats are more likely to contract tetanus. There are two types of tetanus shots available; tetanus toxoid (which is the immunization) and tetanus detoxoid (antitoxin). Tetanus toxoid SHOULD NOT be given within six weeks after a wound has been treated. Tetanus detoxoid is the injection given at the time the wound is initially treated.

What should I vaccinate my goats against?

1. Overeating Disease (Enterotoxemia) and Tetanus

What vaccine should I use?

1. Clostridium Perfringens Types C and D +Tetanus Toxoid in one vaccine, against overeating disease and tetanus. This vaccine is labeled for goats.
2. Multivalent clostridial vaccine (8-way vaccine) One example of a multiway clostridial vaccine, labeled for sheep, is Covexin8. Covexin8 is more reactive and may cause a higher incidence of adverse reaction at the injection site. Covexin8 may preferably be used in herds which have had problems with blackleg and malignant edema (gas gangrene). Although blackleg and malignant edema are common and costly infections in sheep and cattle, they are very uncommon in goats.

What dosage should I use when I vaccinate my goats?

Always read the instructions provided with the vaccine.

1. Clostridium perfringens Types C and D + Tetanus
Dosage (Bar-Vac CD/T; Fermicon CD/T)
- 2 mL per animal, regardless of age and weight

When

Bucks. Once a year

Breeding females. Once a year: 4 to 6 weeks before kidding (some immunity is passed on to the kids), or twice a year: 4 to 6 weeks before kidding and 6 months later (4 to 6 weeks before breeding if breeding does once a year).

Kids. If breeding females have been vaccinated before kidding, vaccinate kids at week 8 of age, then give a booster at week 12 of age. If breeding females have not been vaccinated before kidding and you experience problems, vaccinate kids at 2 weeks of age, then give a booster at 6 weeks of age.

2. Multivalent clostridial vaccine

Dosage (Covexin8)

- 5 mL per animal, regardless of age and weight. Kids get 5 mL initially, then a 2 mL booster 6 weeks later. **When**

Bucks. Once a year

Breeding females. Once a year: 2 to 6 weeks before kidding (some immunity is passed on to the kids).

Kids. If breeding females have been vaccinated before kidding, vaccinate kids at week 10-12 of age, then give a booster at week 16-18 of age. If breeding females have not been vaccinated before kidding and you experience problems, vaccinate kids at 4 weeks of age, then give a booster at 10 weeks of age.

How should I give the injections and where?

Both Clostridium perfringens Types C D /Tetanus and multivalent clostridial vaccines are given in sub-cutaneous or intramuscular injections. Sub-cutaneous injections are favored because of the greater tissue damage at the injection site from intramuscular injections. For sub-cutaneous injections, pinch loose skin between thumb and index finger high on the neck (close to the head as possible) and insert the needle. Make sure that the needle is under the skin and does not stick out on the other of the pinched skin.

Is there a slaughter withdrawal time?

Yes, there is a 21 day waiting period between vaccination and slaughter for both vaccines.

Should I vaccinate my goats against tetanus before castration and/or disbudding?

If you have not implemented a vaccination program in your herd, it is advisable to vaccinate your goats against tetanus before disbudding and castration, whether using banding, cutting or using a burdizzo.

Tetanus Toxoid vaccines are available.

Should I give a Tetanus Toxoid booster to my goat if a severe wound occurs?

Yes.

Give a subcutaneous injection of **Tetanus Toxoid** for long term protection (one year).

Tetanus antitoxin can also be given to protect goats when a wound occurs, but this only protects for approximately 30 days

Are there other vaccines on the market?

Yes, many other vaccines are available, including those for leptospirosis, chlamydiosis, sore mouth, bluetongue, footrot, etc. However, those should be used to control existing problems upon veterinary recommendations - often only after management changes have failed